

1-14-1993

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Recommended Citation

"University of Dayton Adopts Smoking Policy" (1993). *News Releases*. 8275.
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The University of Dayton

News Release

Jan. 14, 1992
Contact: Teri Rizvi

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ADOPTS SMOKING POLICY

DAYTON, Ohio -- The University of Dayton will become a smoke-free workplace this summer upon the recommendation of a campus committee.

The move is part of a growing trend by businesses to acknowledge the health risk of smoking and ban it in the workplace. Just last week, the Environmental Protection Agency linked second-hand smoke to cancer.

Starting July 1, smoking will be prohibited in any office, work or break area. Smoking also will be prohibited throughout traditional residence halls, except in designated "smoking" rooms, but left up to roommates in residential suites, apartments and houses. The sale and free distribution of tobacco and tobacco-related products will be banned on campus.

For the benefit of smokers who want to quit, the University will offer an on-campus smoking cessation program beginning in May and provide half the costs (up to \$200) for any outside program.

"The committee that studied smoking on campus wanted to make a clear distinction between the workplace and the living place," said psychology professor Kenneth Kuntz, who chaired the committee. "We took a thorough look at what was going on around the country, and what we recommended is keeping with the national trends. It was a difficult

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recommendation because there were some people on the committee who favored a more lenient policy."

The policy, to be inserted in employee and faculty handbooks, acknowledges the University's responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthful campus environment. "While respecting those members of the University community who personally wish to smoke, the University notes that smoking poses a significant medically documented risk to the health of non-smokers as well as smokers," the policy states.

According to the policy, smoking would be prohibited in offices, work areas, classrooms, laboratories, dining areas, hallways, stairwells, elevators, restrooms, conference rooms, libraries, galleries, reception rooms, University-owned vehicles, Kennedy Union and the University of Dayton Arena. At University-sponsored Arena events, those who choose to smoke will be given an exit pass to smoke outside. At non-University-sponsored events at the Arena, exceptions may be granted after review of requests submitted in writing.

According to a recent campus-wide survey on smoking, among 1,848 respondents, 14 percent currently smoke, 22 percent have quit, and 64 percent have never smoked. The staff accounts for the largest percentage of current smokers, and students comprise the largest group of non-smokers -- nearly 90 percent have never smoked or no longer smoke.